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# *Urban Warfare:* *Deta*l*ing Single Building Airflow, Turbulence and Stability Variation Characteristics*

**Gail-Tirrell Vaucher,  
Ronald Cionco, Manuel Bustillos,  
Sean D'Arcy, Robert Dumais, SFC Robert Brice  
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White Sands Missile Range, NM 88002**



## OUTLINE

### **1. BACKGROUND**

- Military Interest in Urban Atmosphere.
- Urban Atmosphere: Thermodynamic/Dynamic Patterns.
- Simplifying the Urban Study.

### **2. WSMR Urban Study – General Information.**

### **3. 2003 March: Phase I Results Reviewed.**

### **4. 2005 March: Phase II Preliminary Results.**



## 1. BACKGROUND

### Military Interest in Urban Atmospheric.

- CALL Newsletter No. 99-16, Chapter 9 (*Flight Operations in Urban Areas*); Observation 16 (Environmental Considerations).



- **Winds**

- Broken up winds, funneled down street/alley.
- Turbulence in canyons impact aircraft performance & weapon delivery.



- **Temperatures**

- Thermal heating affected by buildings (can be 10-20C warmer than rural).
- Adversely affect thermal sights on aircraft.

- **Visibility**

- Smog reduces visibility, increases target acquisition/threat exposure time.
- Weapon sensors degraded; laser guided weapons “severely affected”.

- *Aviation Urban Operations Manual* –Joint Air, Land, Sea Applications Center



- **Wind Patterns**: Mission Planning Factors.

- Degraded Night Vision Systems. [UHI effect also].
- Degraded communications.
- Degraded Visibility and Toxic Fumes.



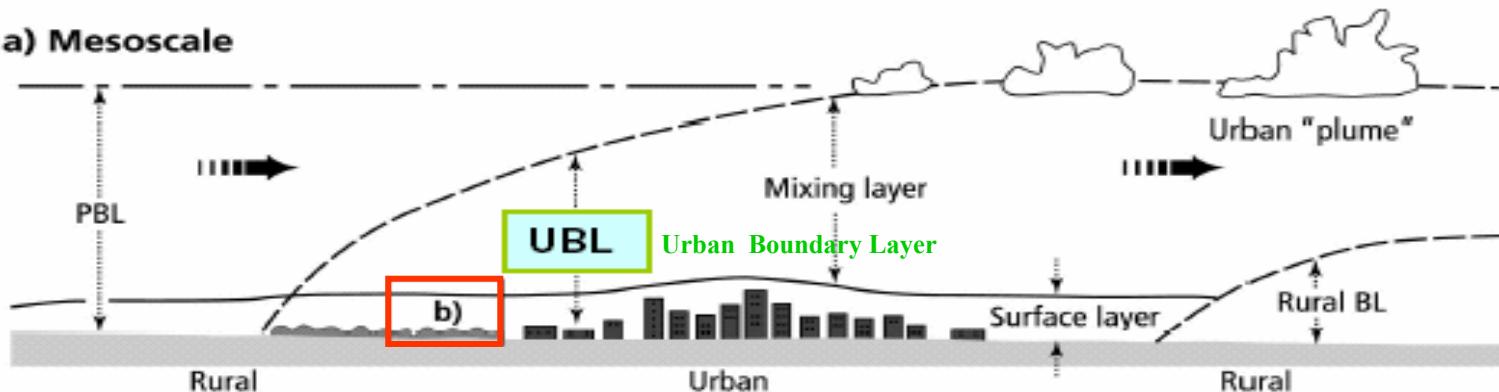
# 1. BACKGROUND

## Urban Atmosphere



### Scales and Layers Relevant to Urban Climate

a) Mesoscale



Ability to simulate the urban atmosphere is dependent upon understanding urban

- dynamic airflow behavior and
- thermodynamic properties,

above and about buildings and their surroundings.



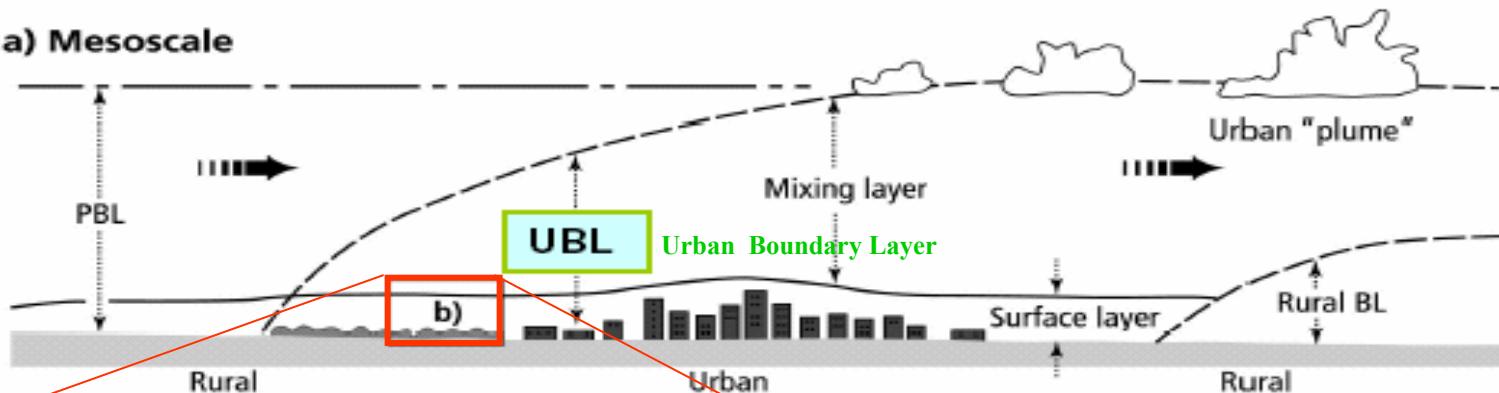
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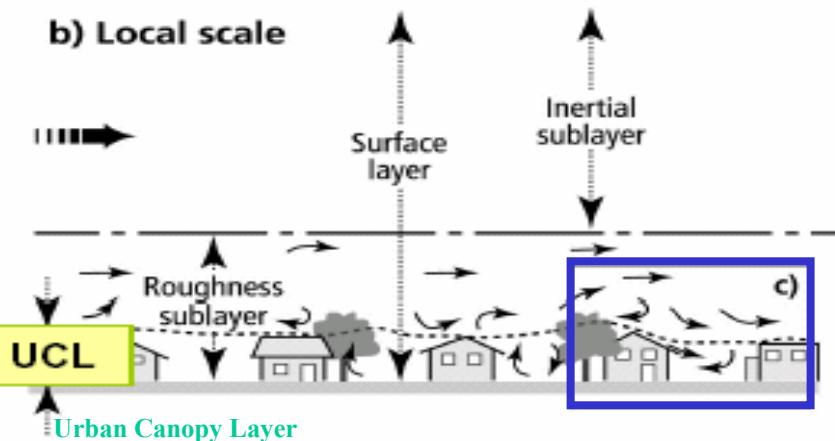
## Urban Atmosphere

### Scales and Layers Relevant to Urban Climate

a) Mesoscale



b) Local scale





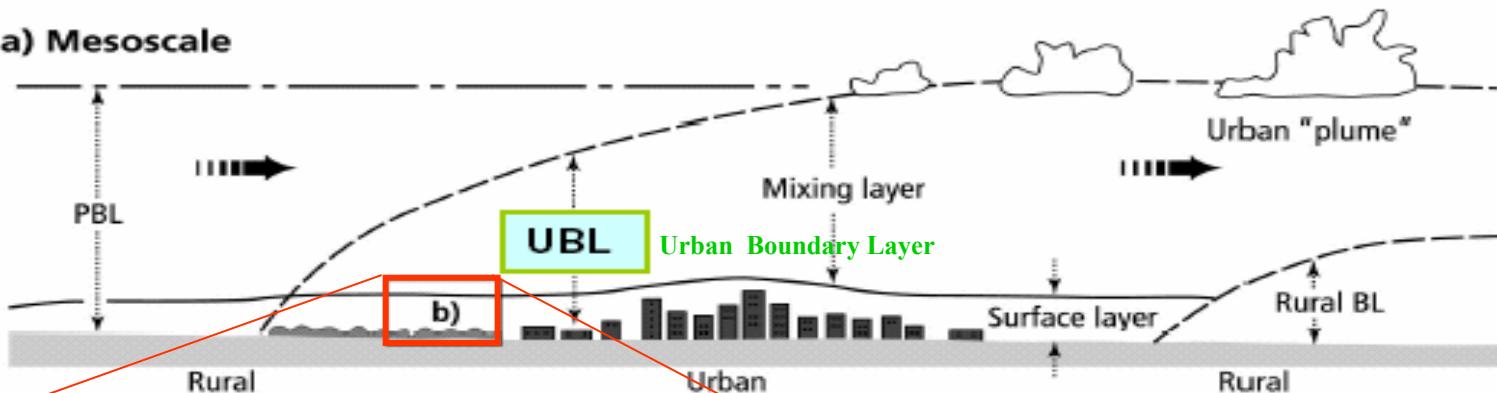
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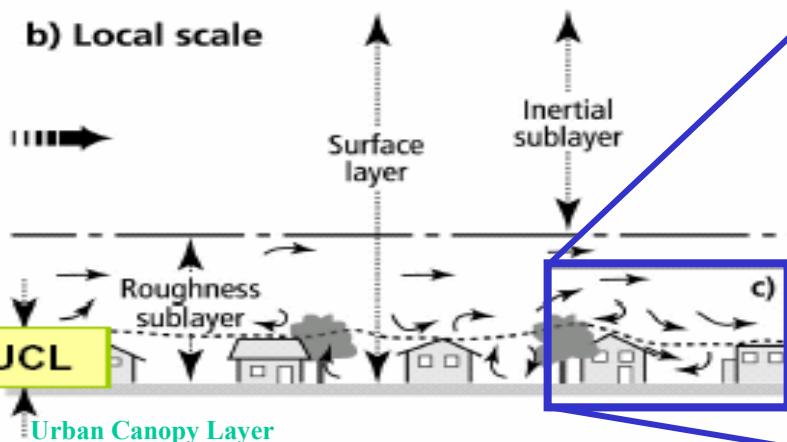
## Urban Atmosphere

### Scales and Layers Relevant to Urban Climate

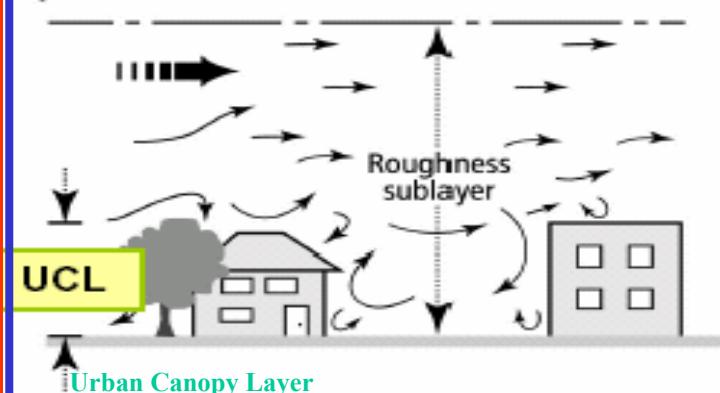
a) Mesoscale



b) Local scale



c) Microscale



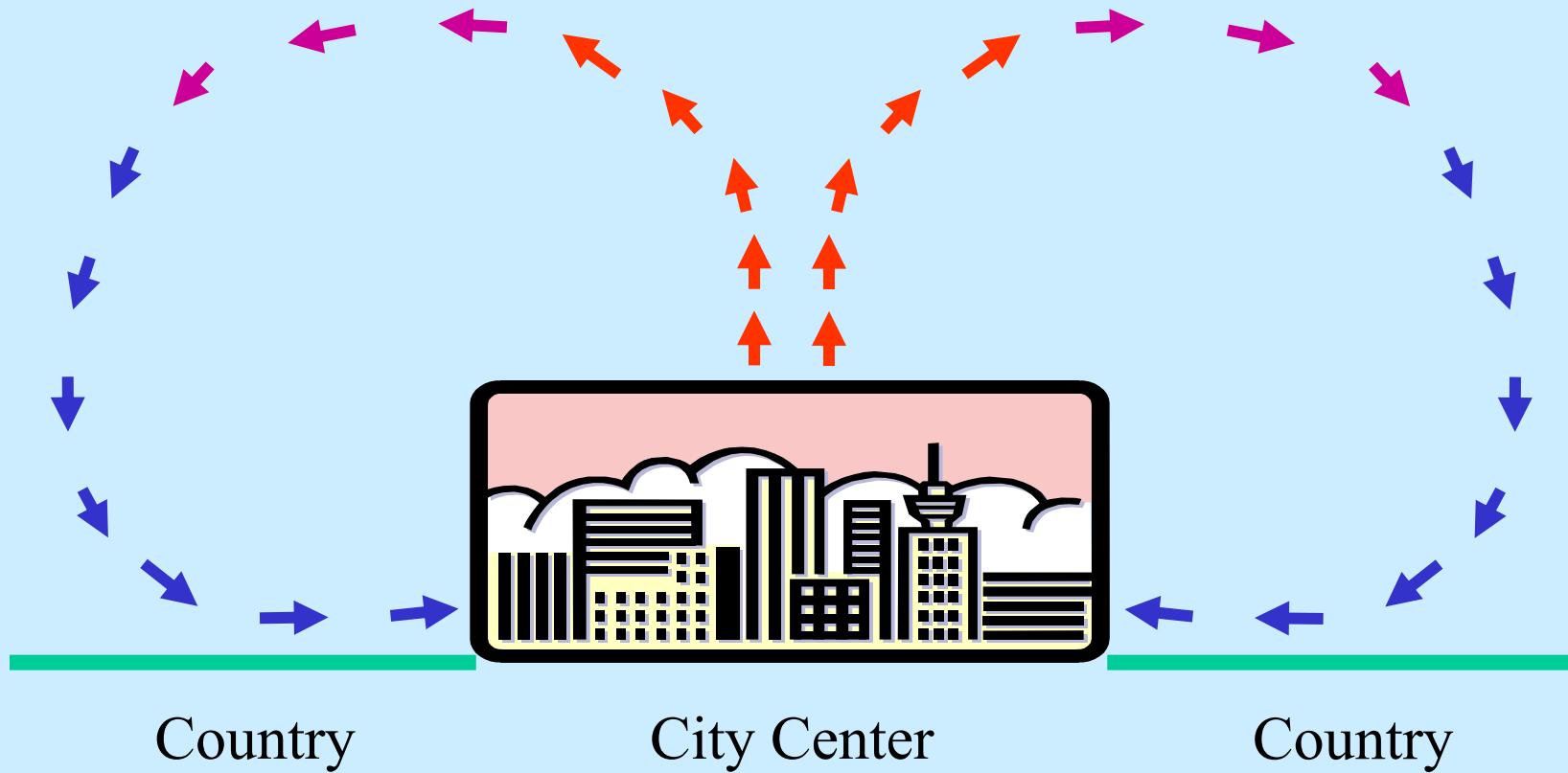
Modified after Oke (1997)



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## 1. BACKGROUND

### Urban: Thermodynamic Patterns.



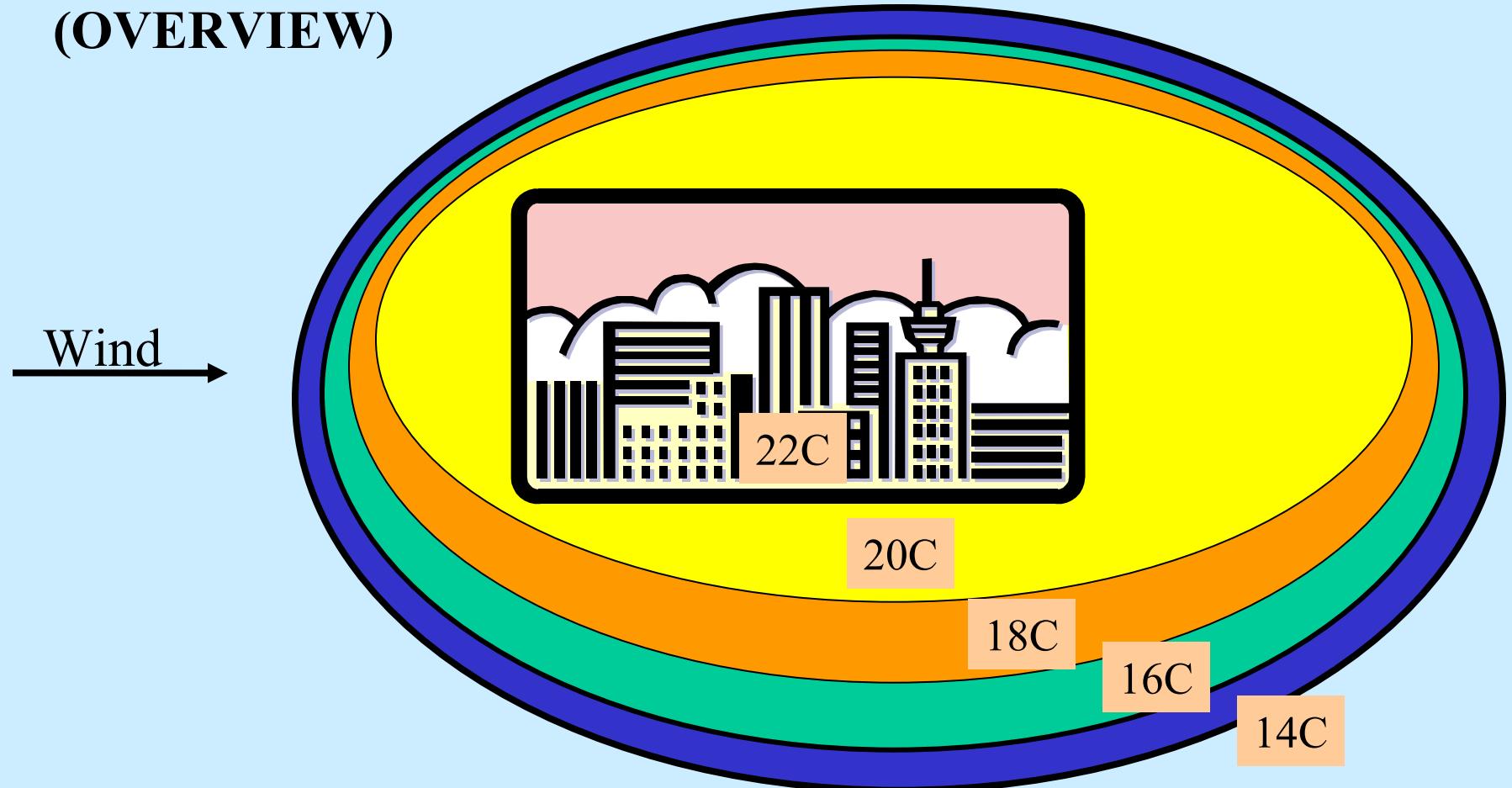


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## 1. BACKGROUND

### Urban: Thermodynamic Patterns.

(OVERVIEW)



Luke Howard – First to discover Urban Heat Island [UHI].

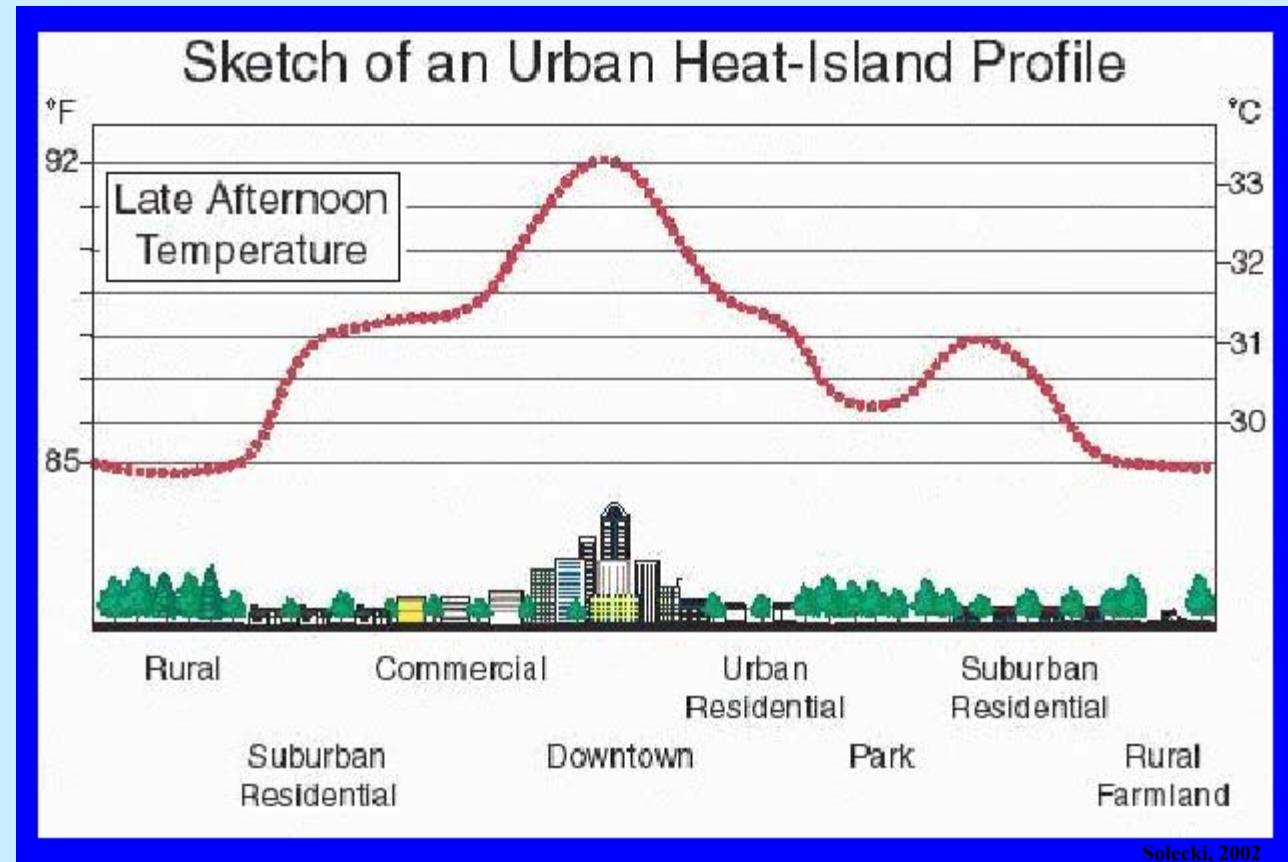
Gordon Manley (1958) - First English Pub with UHI



## 1. BACKGROUND

### Urban: Thermodynamic Patterns.

Vertical  
cross-  
section



U.S. Dept of Energy:

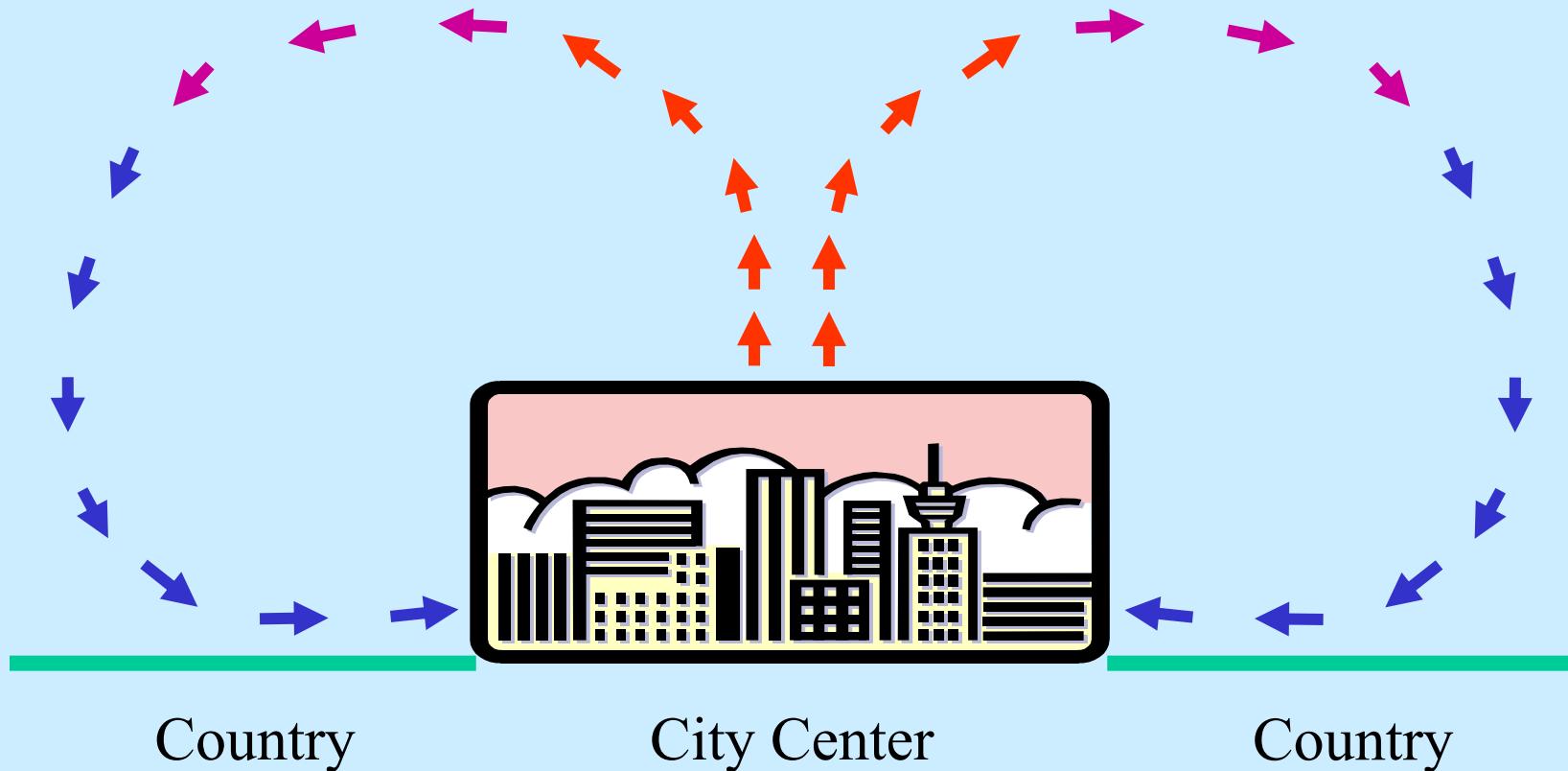
“On warm summer days, the air in a city can be 6-8°F hotter than the surrounding countryside.”



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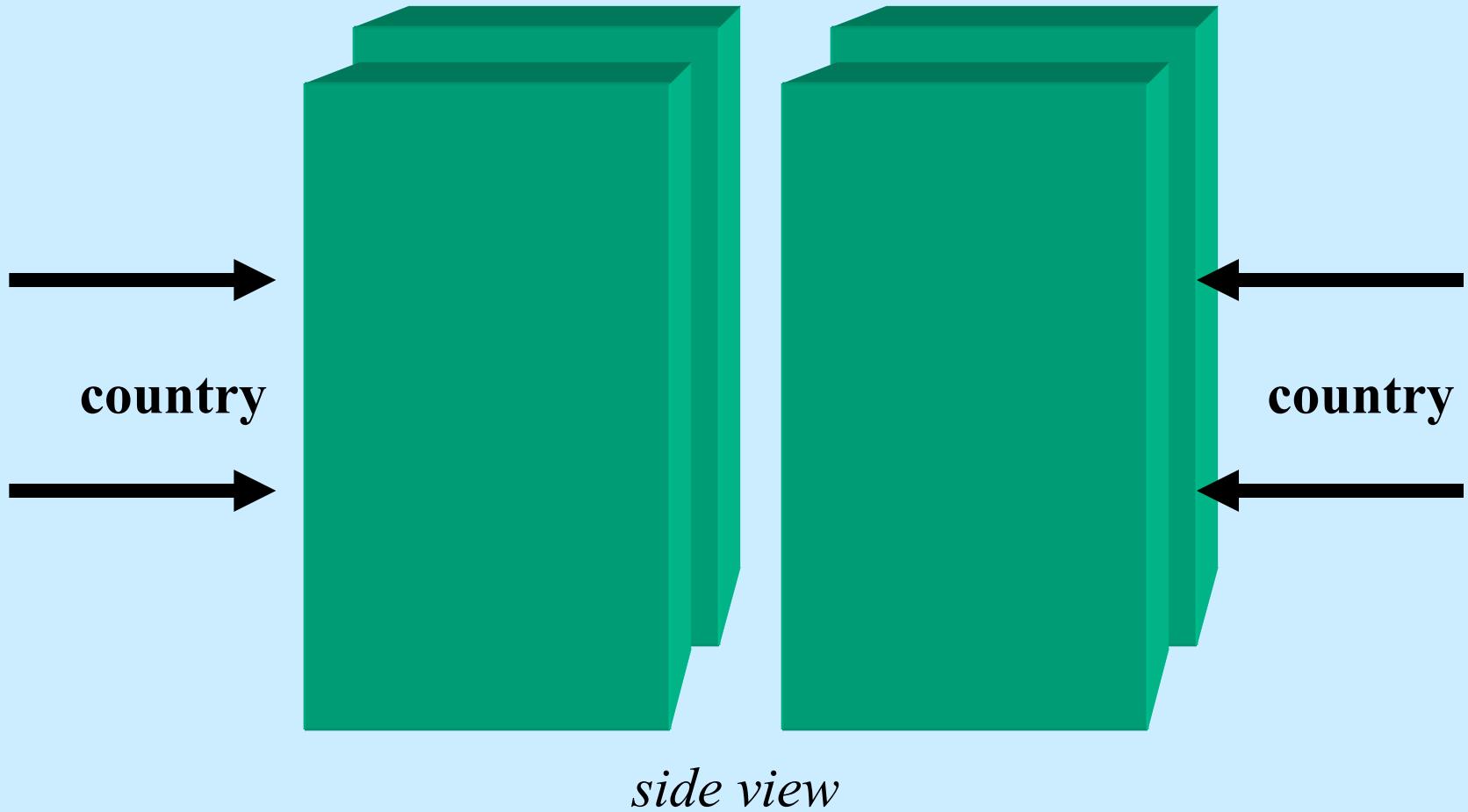
## 1. BACKGROUND

### Urban: Thermodynamic/Dynamic Patterns.





## 1. BACKGROUND: Dynamic Patterns. Channeling/Canyon Flow/Complex Flow





# 1. BACKGROUND: Dynamic Patterns. Complex Airflow around Tall Buildings



Complex Airflow around  
Tall Buildings and...



Short Buildings...



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## 1. BACKGROUND: Dynamic Patterns. Simplifying the Urban Study

Reduce problem to two options:

1. Multiple buildings (city downtown areas) and
2. Single buildings (large store/factory/office bldg and parking lot).





## 2. WSMR Urban Study

### *Air Flow and Stability Variations Around a Single Building*



- 2003 March Field Test – Mean Flow/Stability.
- 2005 March Field Test – Turbulent Conditions.



## 2. WSMR Urban Study

### Wind Tunnel Flow Fields, Snyder and Lawson, 1994

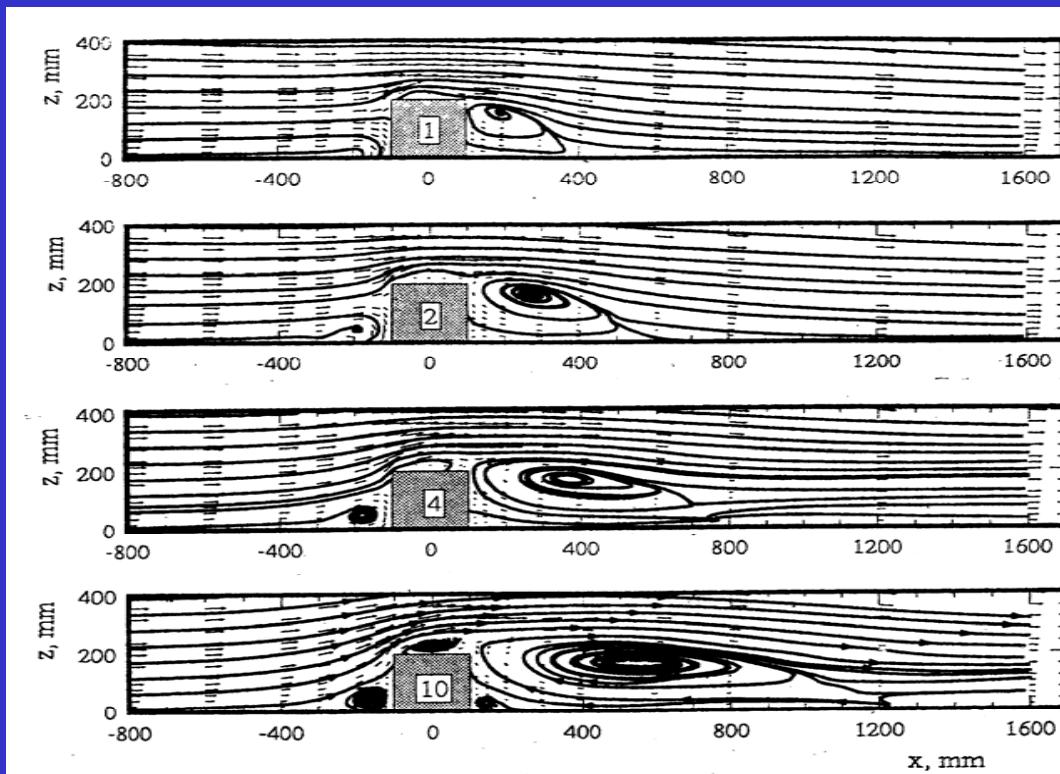
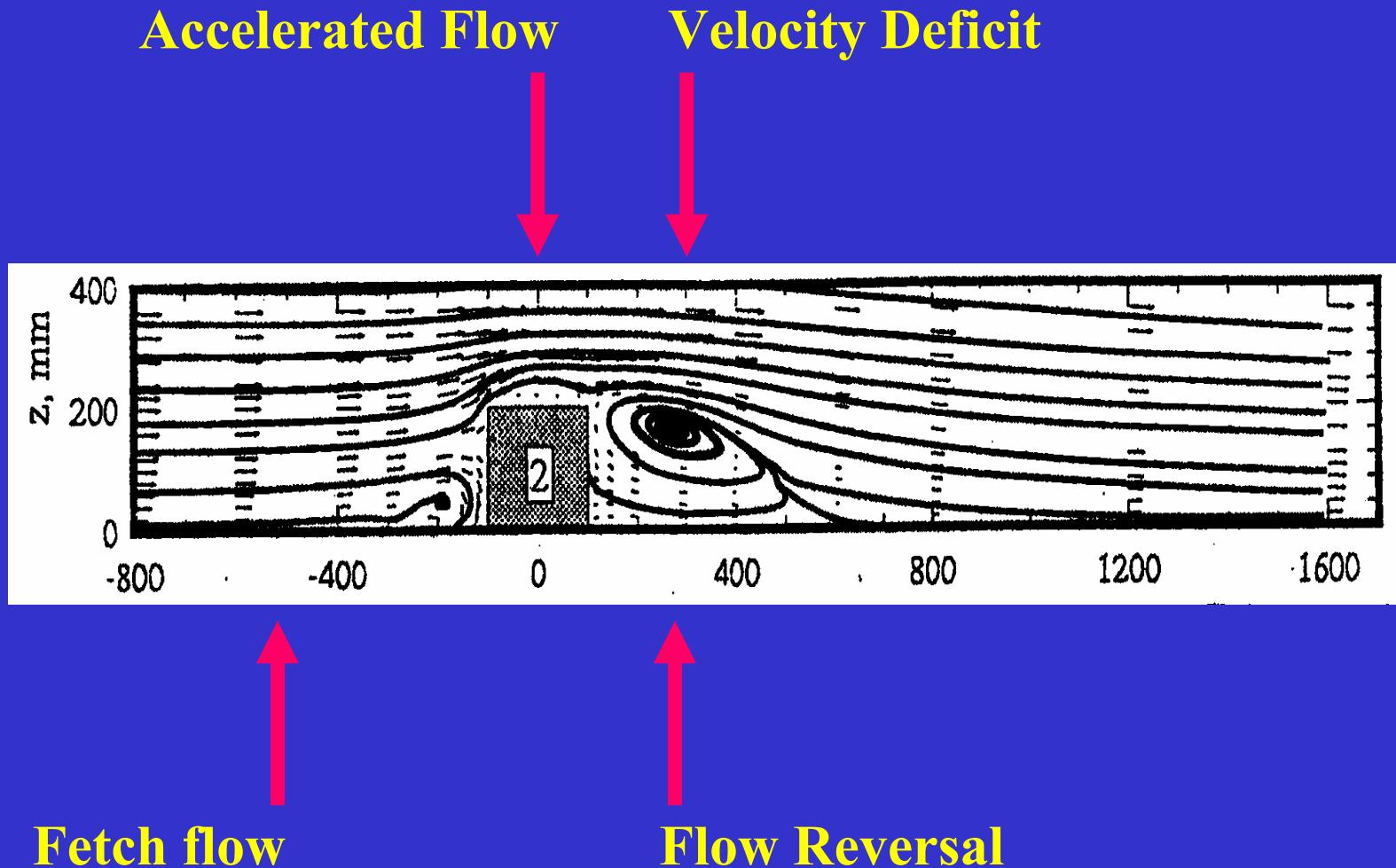


Figure 2. Streamline patterns around buildings of various crosswind widths. Number on building is  $W/H$ .  $L=H$ .



## 2. WSMR Urban Study

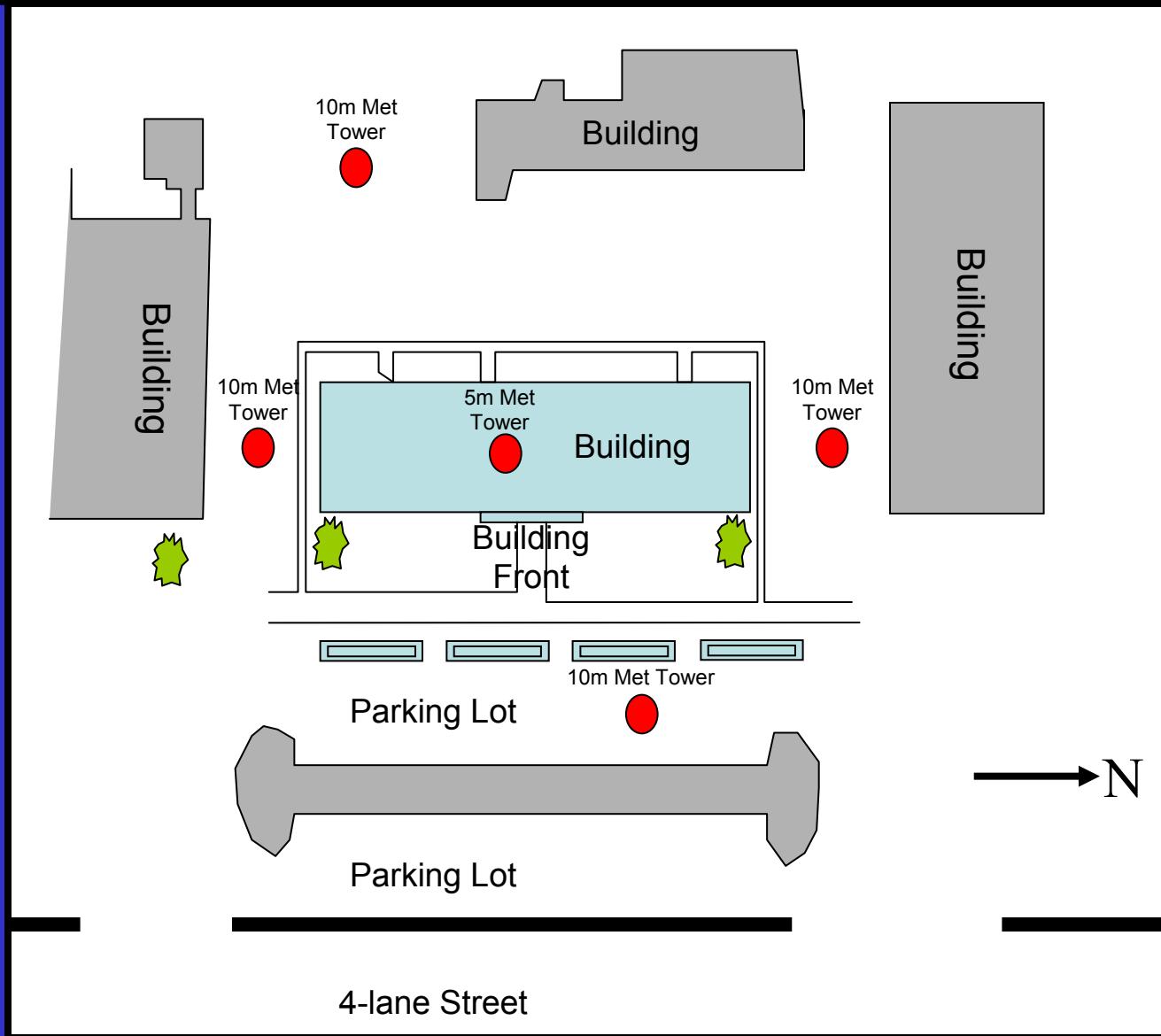




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# Field Site Layout

(Not drawn to scale)





### 3. 2003 March: Phase I Results Reviewed.

#### Air Flow

⇒ Results presented in 3 perspectives:

- Numerically (Measurement Sample)
- Graphically (Time series)
- Visually (Photograph)

#### Strong West Winds Case (JD 86.422)

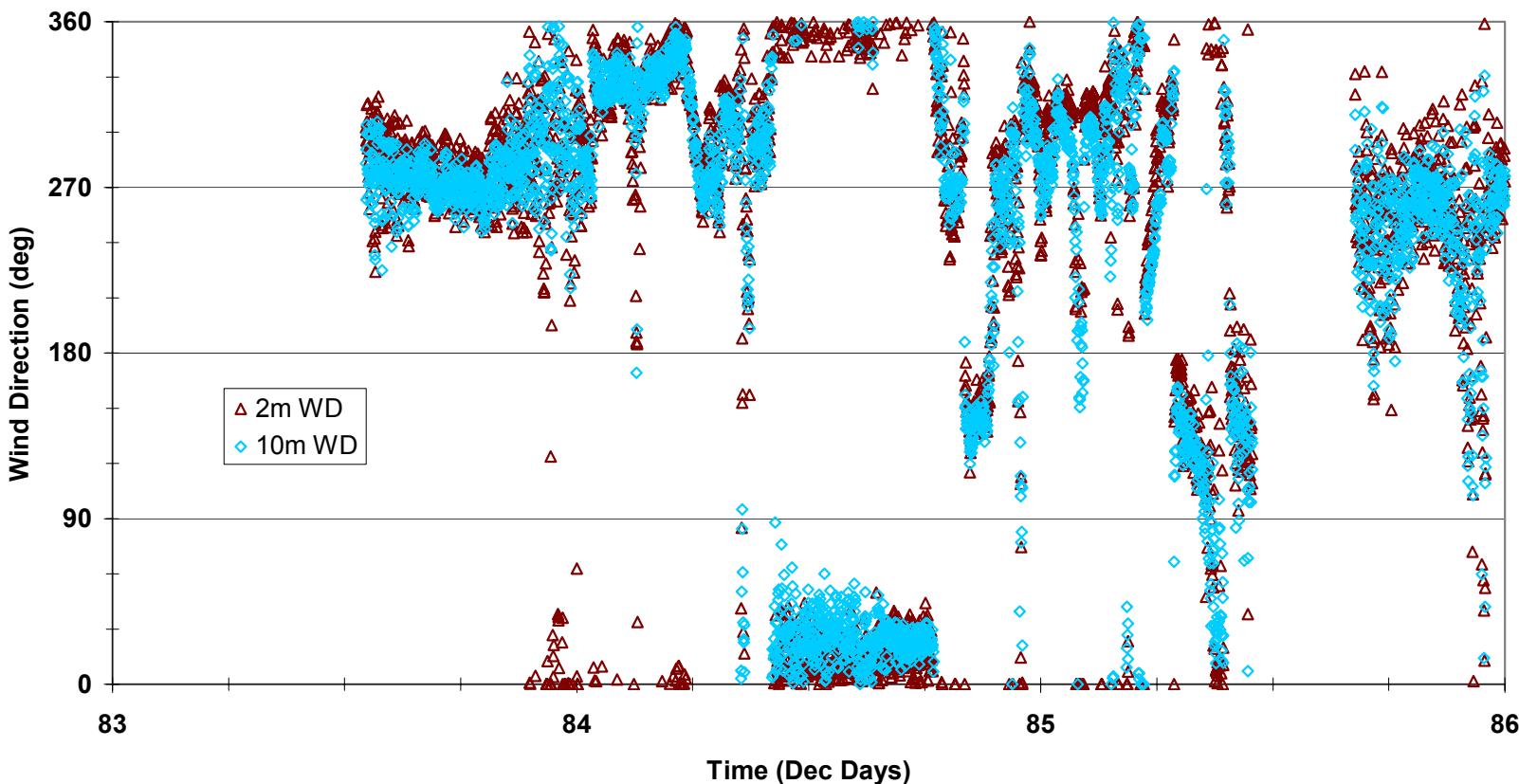
<u>TWR:</u>	<u>SW</u>	<u>ROOF</u>	<u>EAST</u>	<u>NORTH</u>	<u>SOUTH</u>
10M:	13.64	14.54	W 8.4	14.6	15.4 m/s
2M:	7.1	----	E 2.8	9.22	11.7 m/s



### 3. 2003 March: Phase I Results Reviewed.

## Southwest Tower: UPWIND CONDITIONS

**PreTest#1: SouthWest Tower**  
Julian Dates 83-90 [2003 Mar 24-31]  
Wind Direction

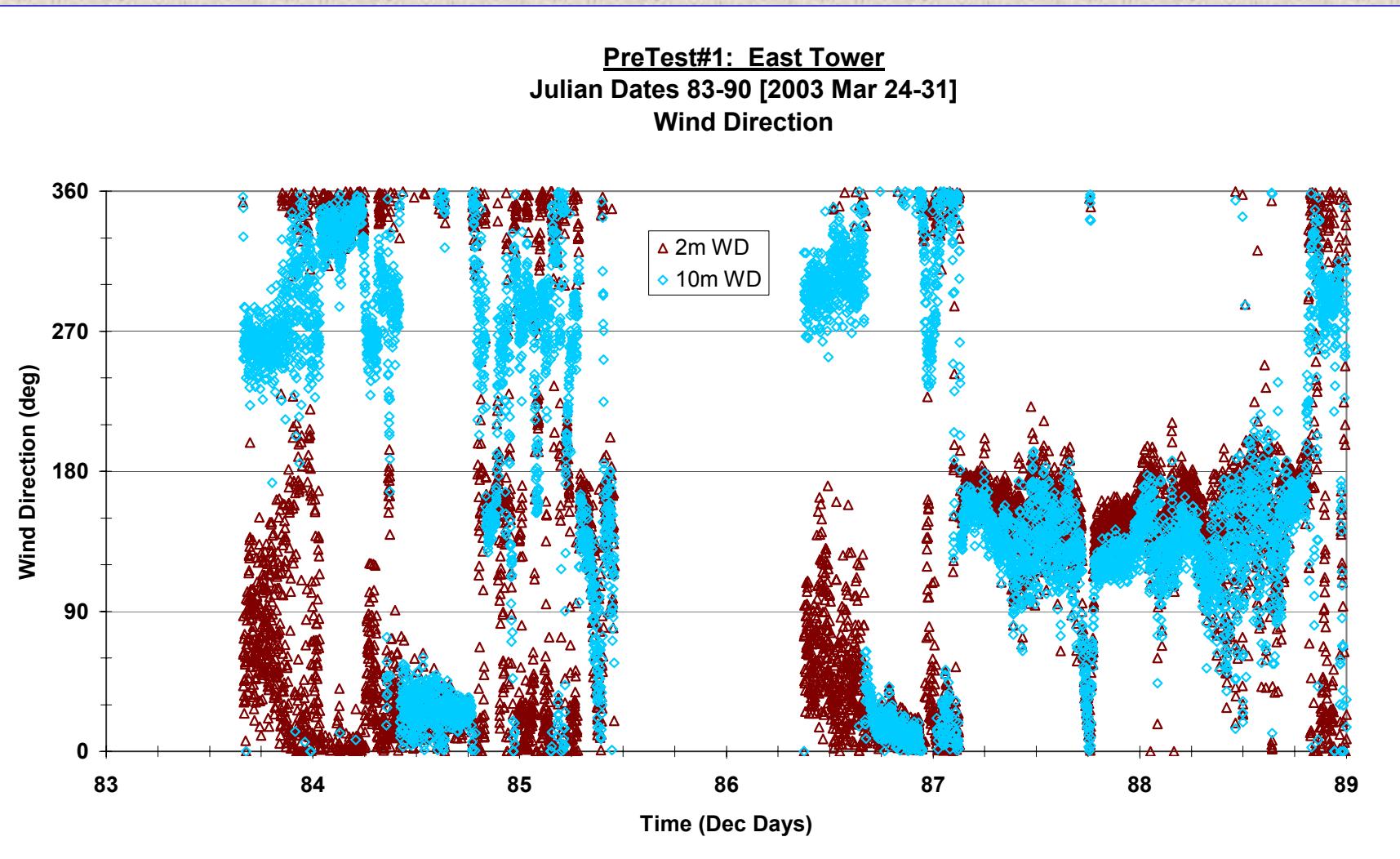




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### 3. 2003 March: Phase I Results Reviewed.

## East Tower: DOWNWIND OF BUILDING





### 3. 2003 March: Phase I Results Reviewed.

**East Tower:**  
**BUILDING LEESIDE  
CAVITY ZONE**

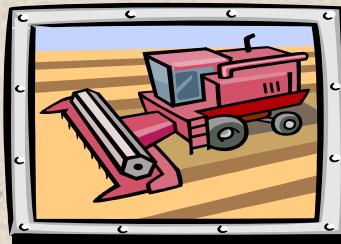




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### 3. 2003 March: Phase I Results Reviewed.

$T_{\text{Rural}}$



#### Stability Variations

$T_{\text{Urban}}$



#### Rural Pattern

Day - Unstable

Night – Stable

Transitions = two.

2003 Mar 12

#### Urban Pattern

Day – Unstable

Night – Unstable/Neutral

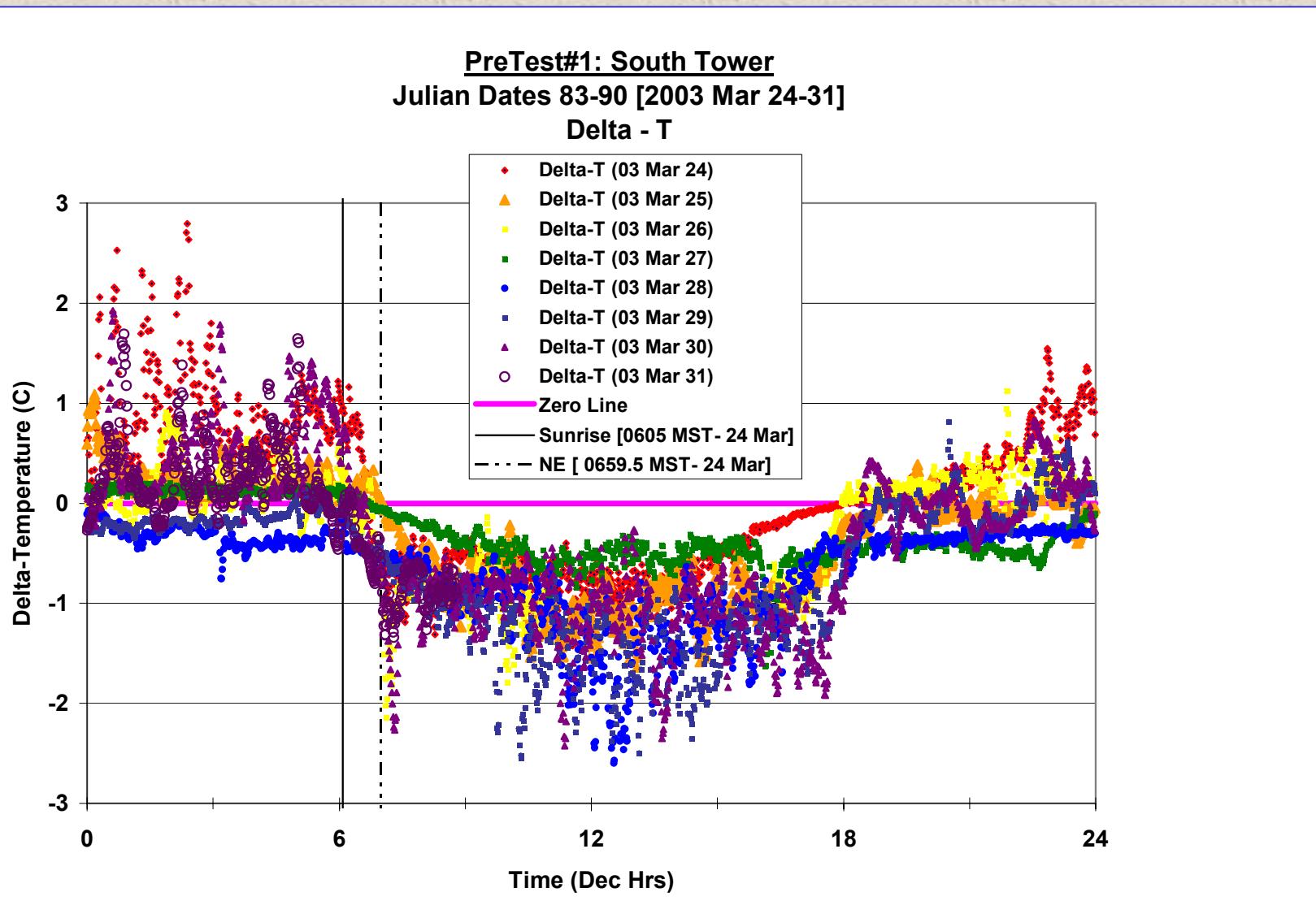
Transitions = Intermittent.

2003 Mar 25-31



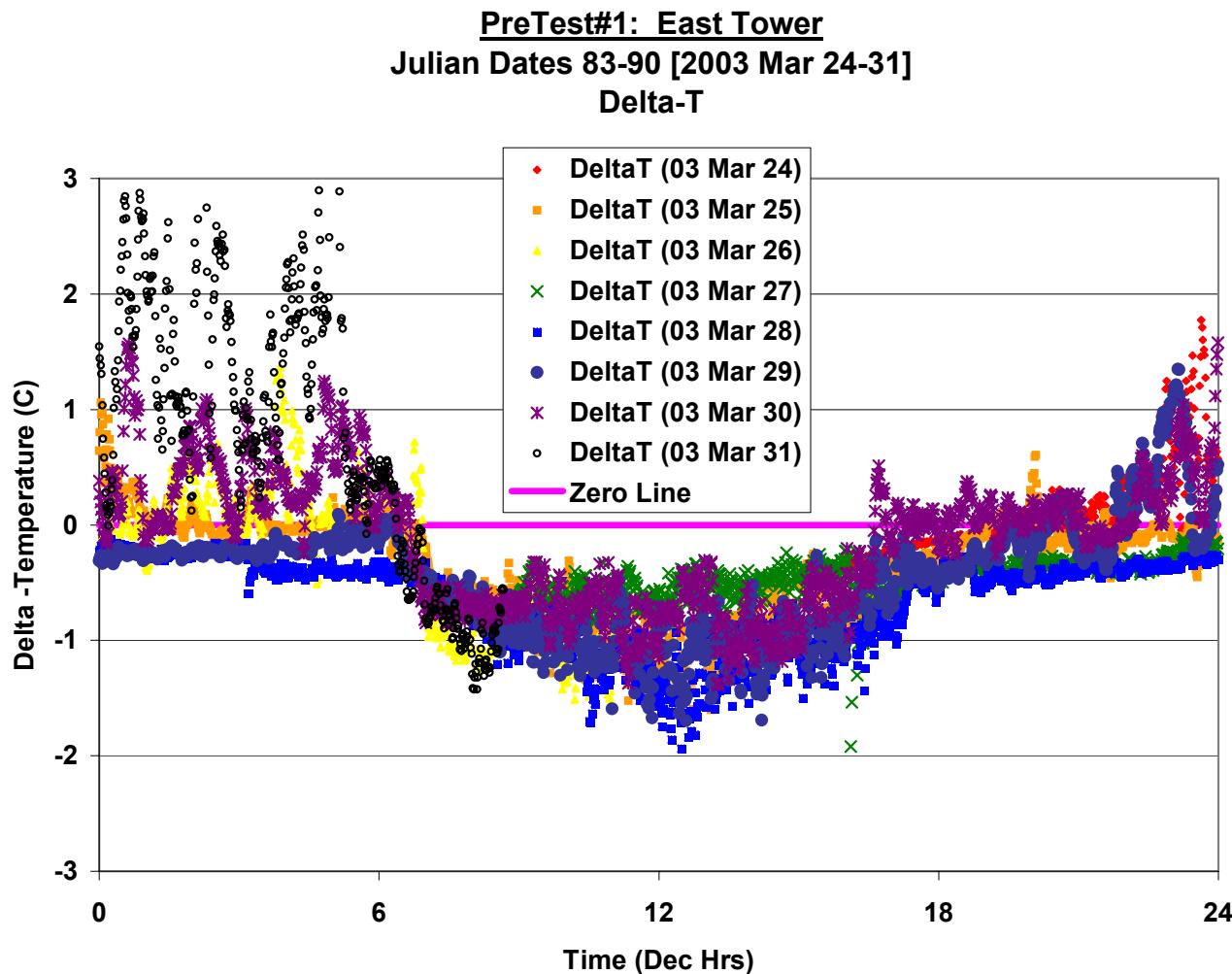
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### 3. 2003 March: Phase I Results Reviewed.





### 3. 2003 March: Phase I Results Reviewed.

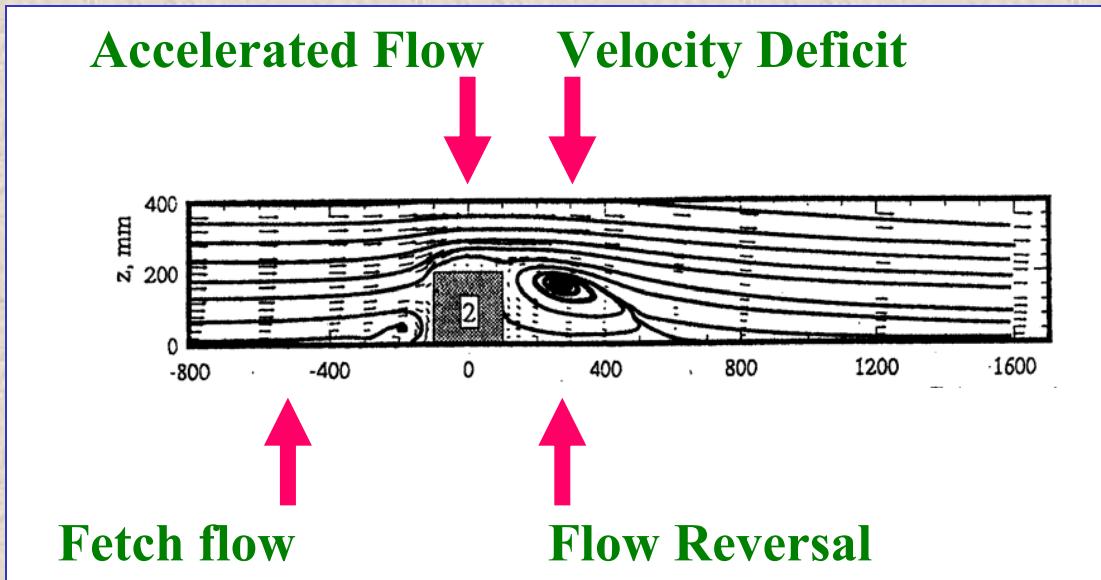




### 3. 2003 March: Phase I Results Reviewed.

#### ⇒ Air Flow Results:

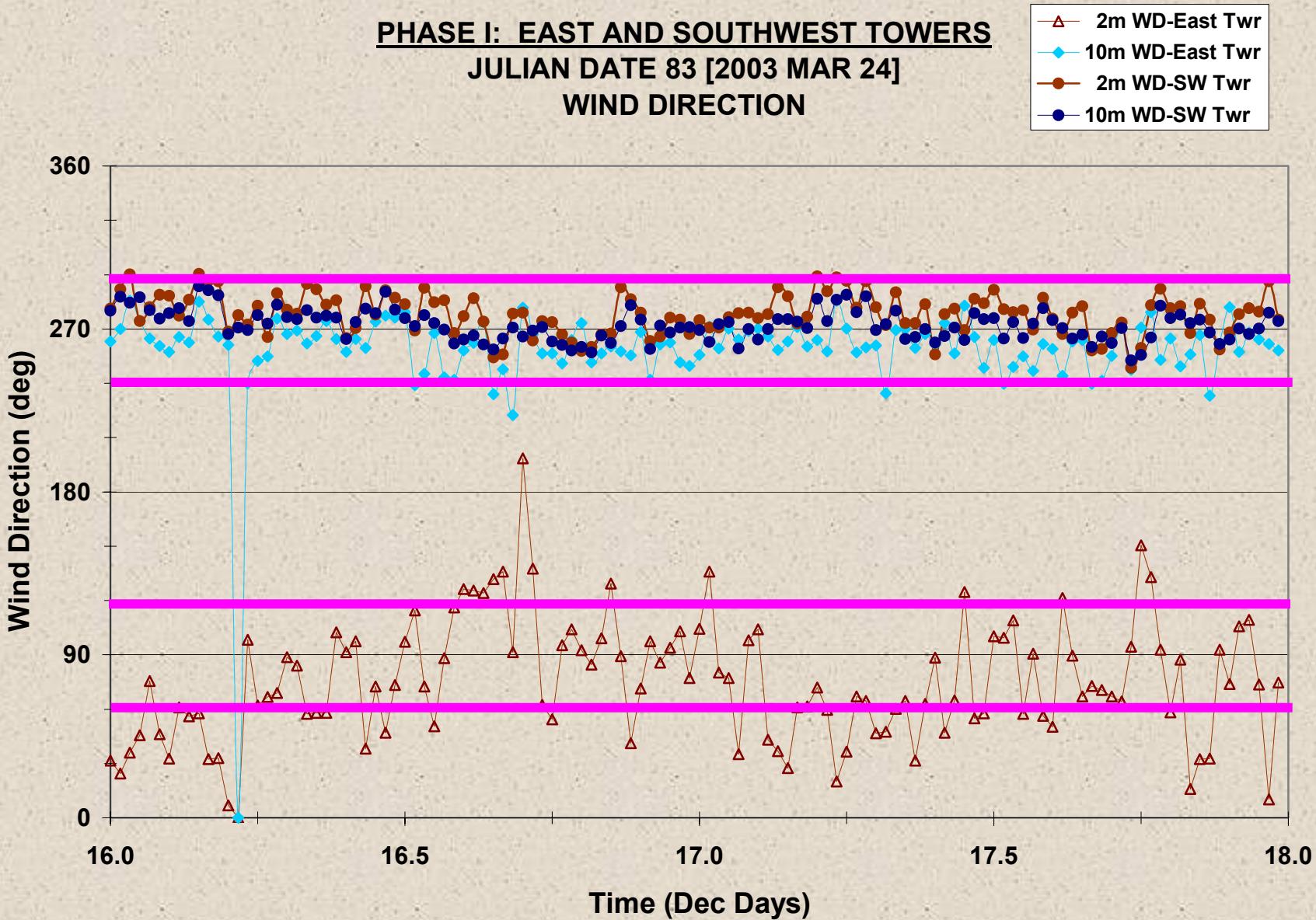
- Validated Specific Wind Tunnel Air Flows Features.
- Single building affects air flow patterns.



#### ⇒ Stability Transition [ST] Results:

- ST results characterize an Urban Heat Island [UHI] effect.
- Small building complexes can retain some rural atmospheric character.

## 4. 2003 March: Phase II (Background)





## 4. 2005 March: Phase II (Study Specifications).

- ⇒ **March 2003:** Mean Meteorological Conditions.
- ⇒ **March 2005:** Flow and Stability under Turbulent Conditions.
- ⇒ **Mission Objectives:** to characterize urban Airflow and Stability Patterns around and above a single building.
- ⇒ **Field Study Design:**
  - Location-  
Single, 2-story, rectangular,  
concrete-block office building.
  - 5 Meteo Towers-  
10m N-,S-,E-,and W-sides; 5m roof.
  - Tower Placement-  
Synder & Lawson wind tunnel study.
  - Sensors-  
Sonic and Campbell Systems.
  - Variable-  
P, T, RH, WS/WD, Solar Radiation.



## 4. 2005 March: Phase II (16 Sonics Added).

1 Minute Averages



20Hz Sampling Rate





# WSMR Urban Study

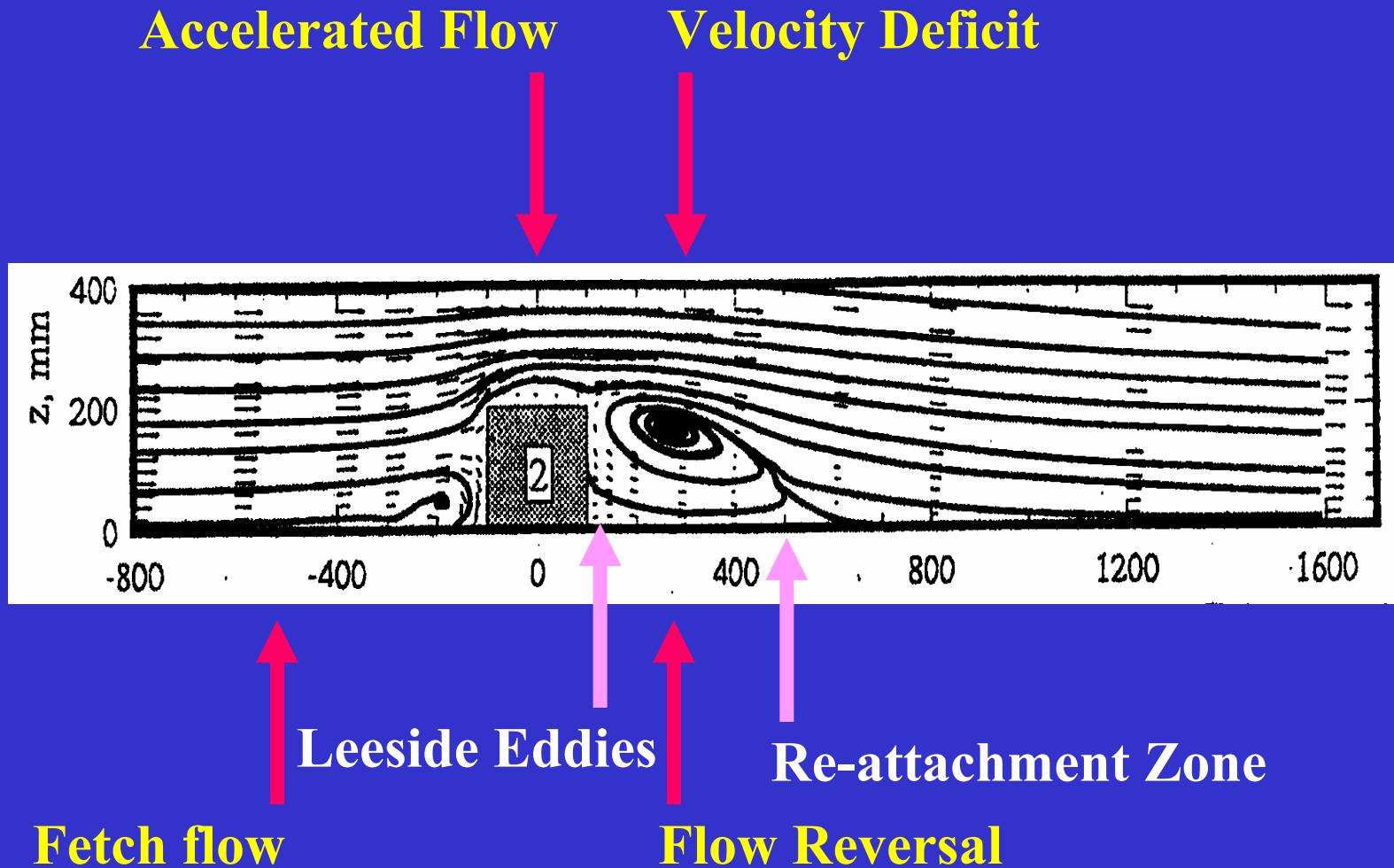
## BUILDING and TOWERS





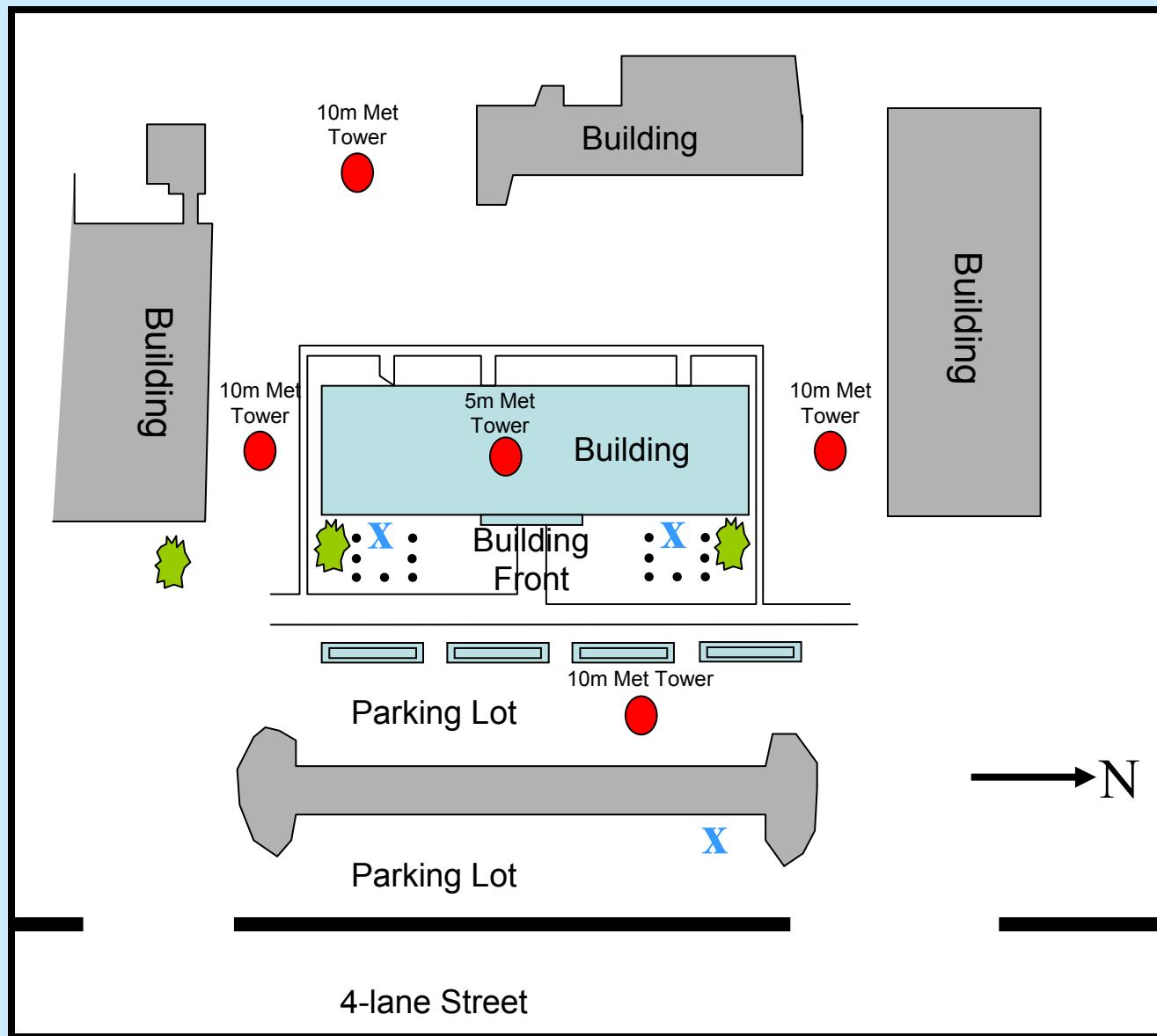
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## 2. WSMR Urban Study

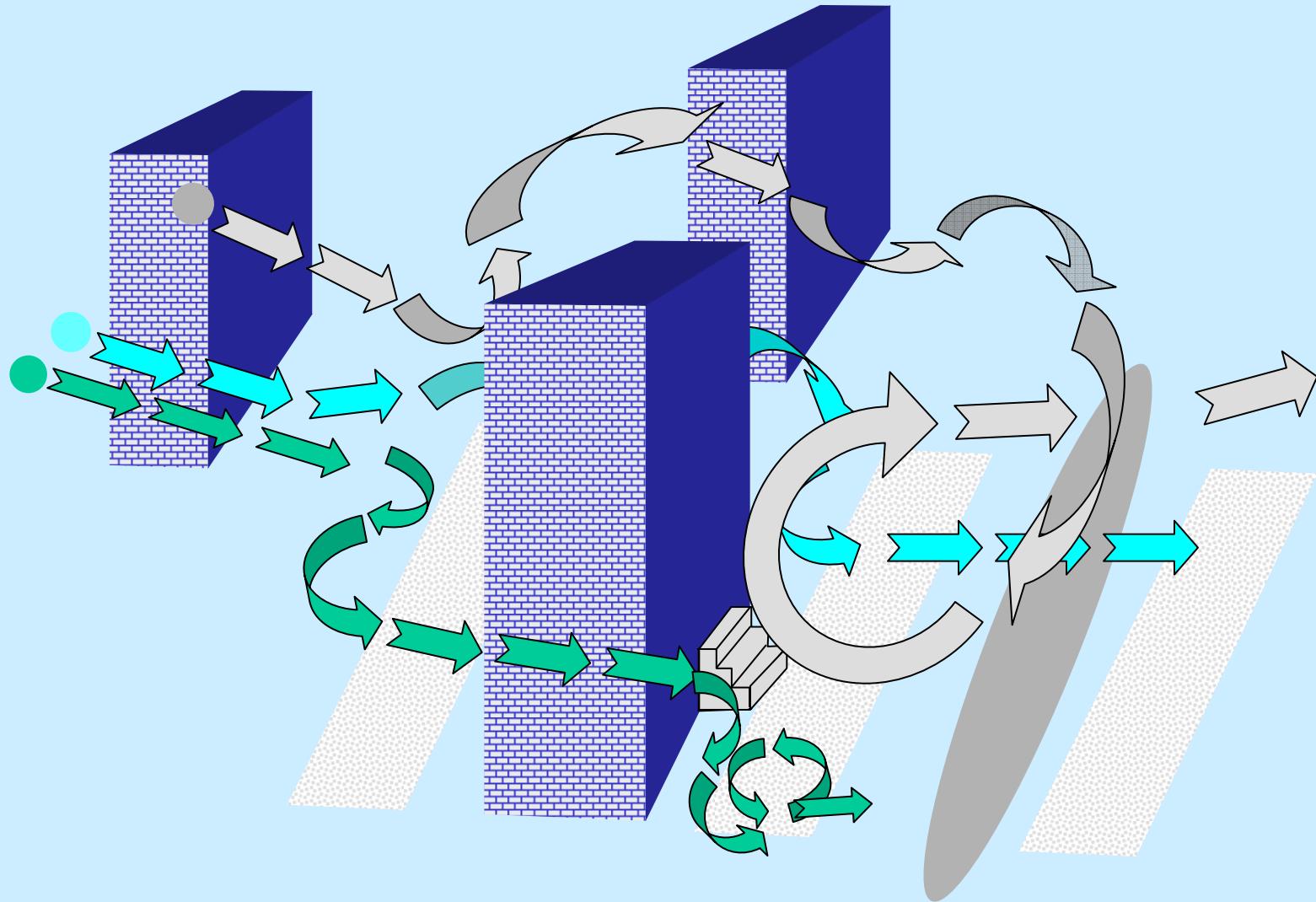


## Phase II: Field Site Layout

(Not drawn to scale)

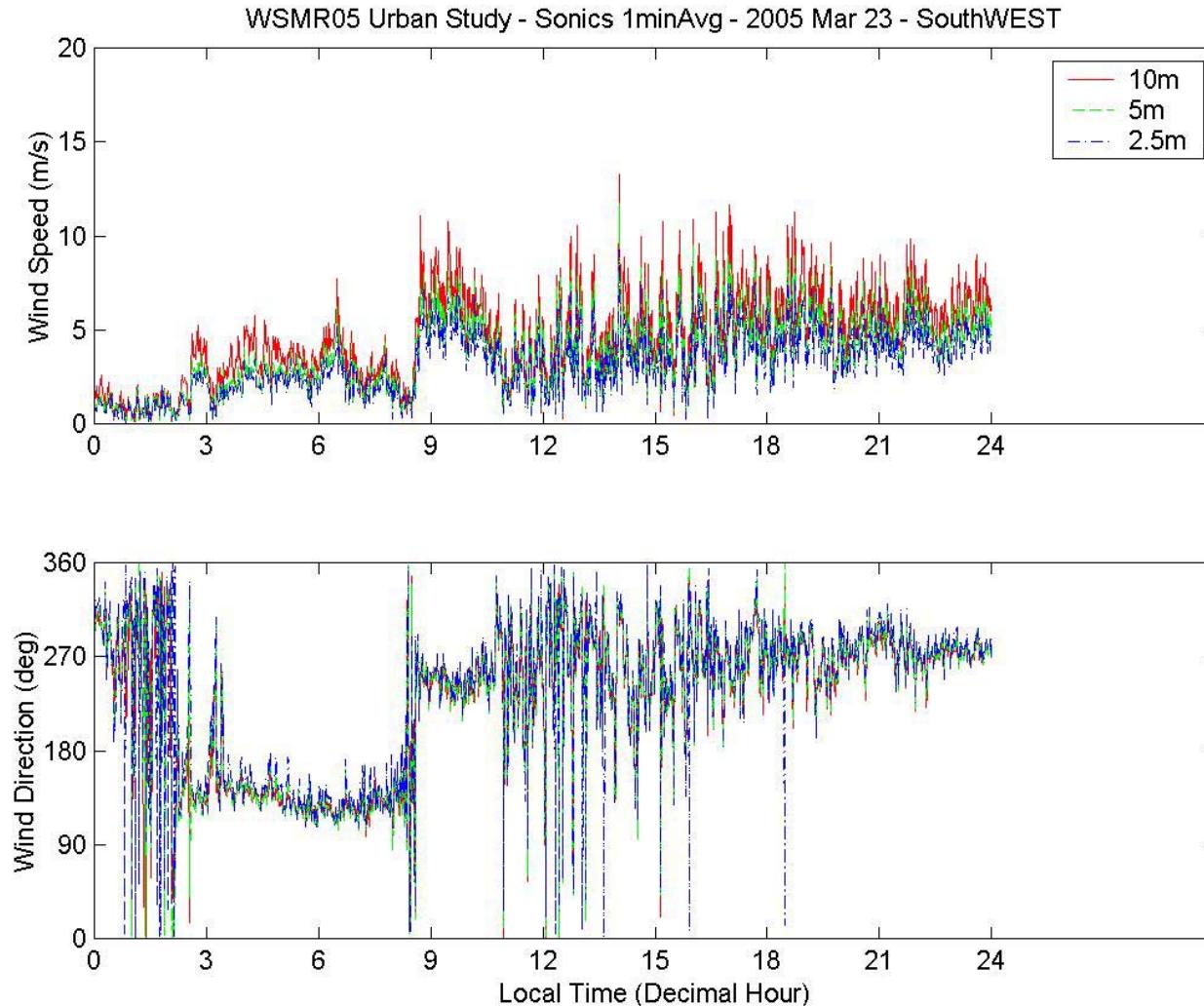


#### 4. 2005 March: Phase II (Turbulent Conditions).



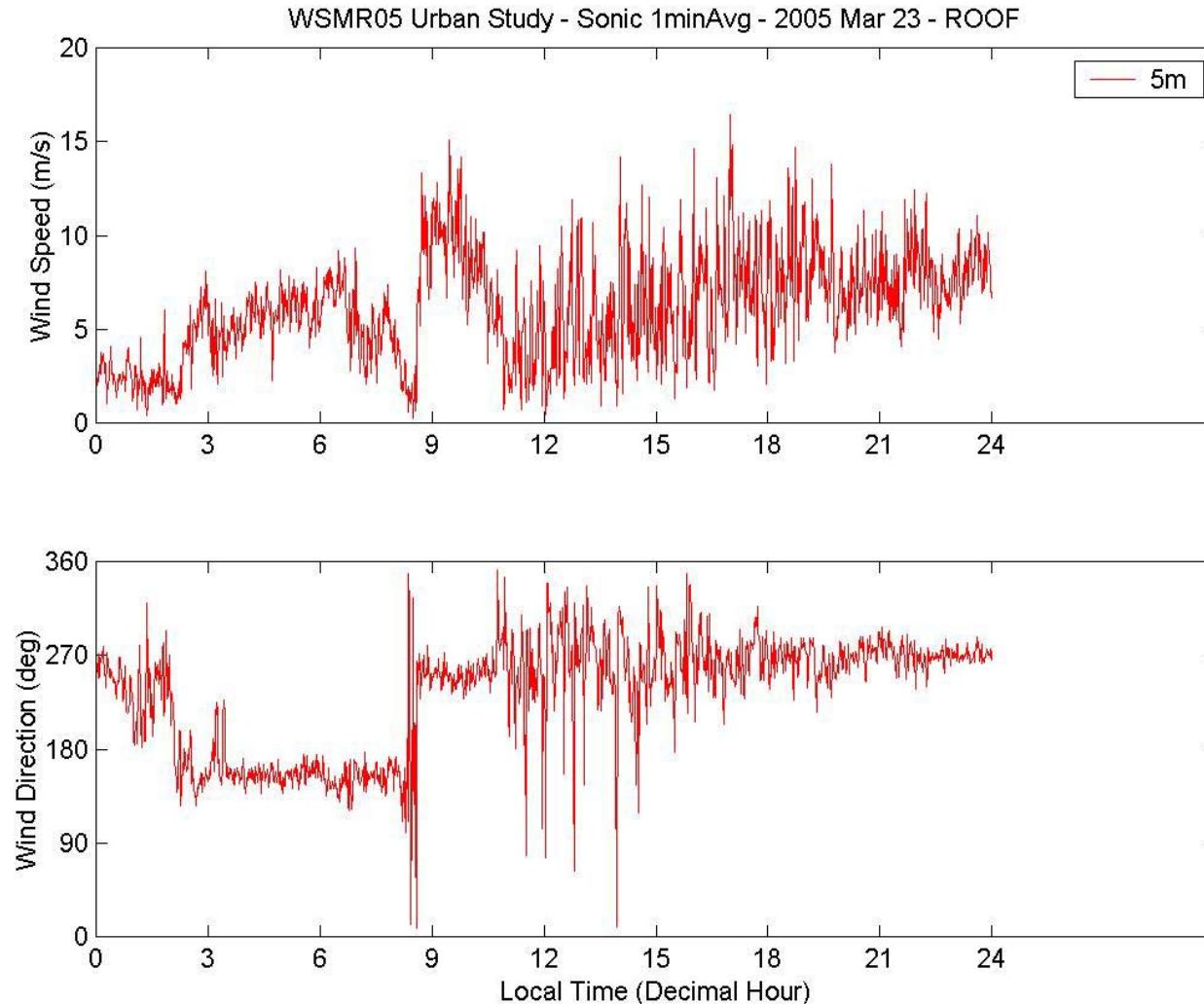
## 4. 2005 March: Phase II Preliminary Results.

### “THE FETCH”



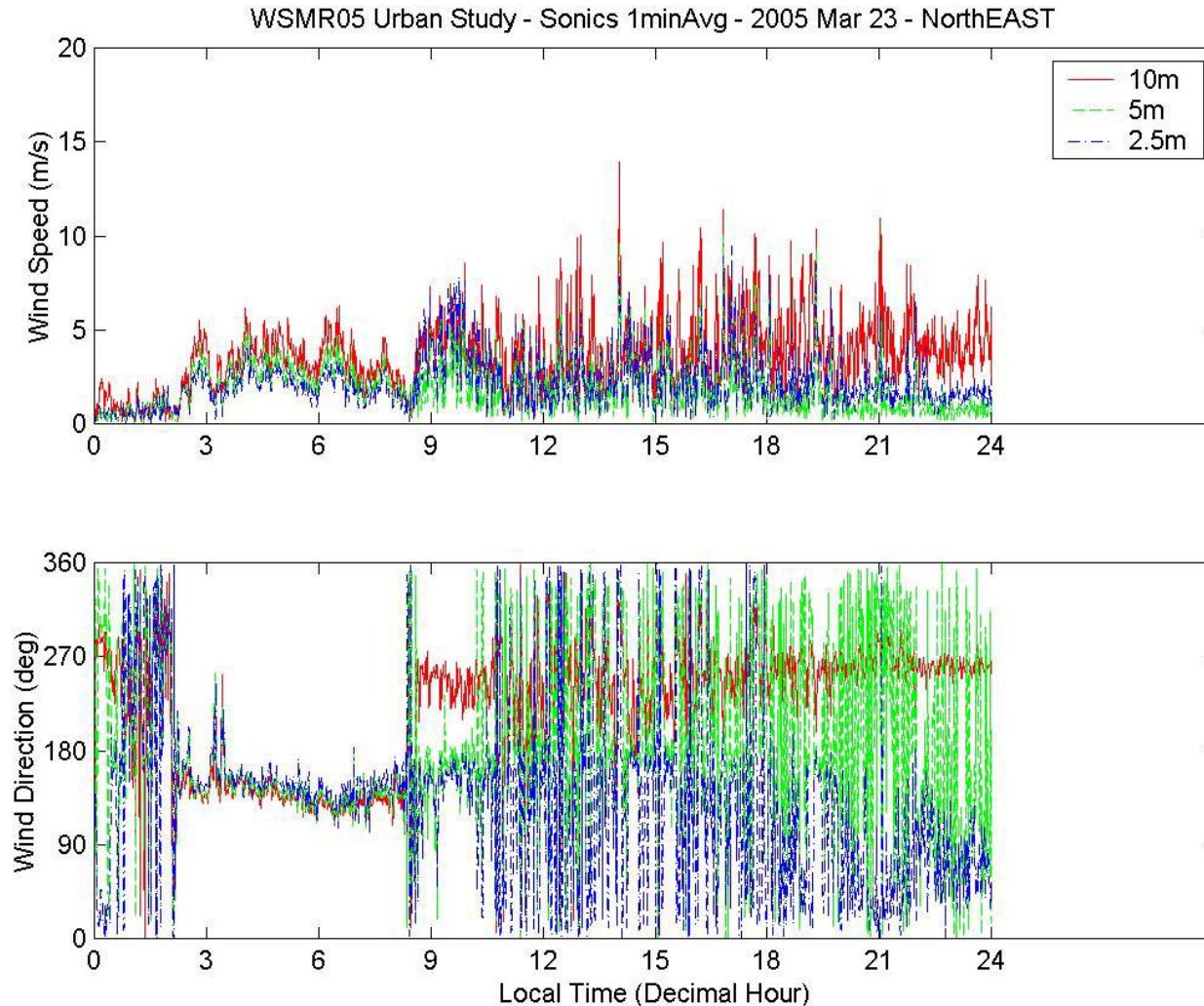
## 4. 2005 March: Phase II Preliminary Results.

### “THE ROOF”



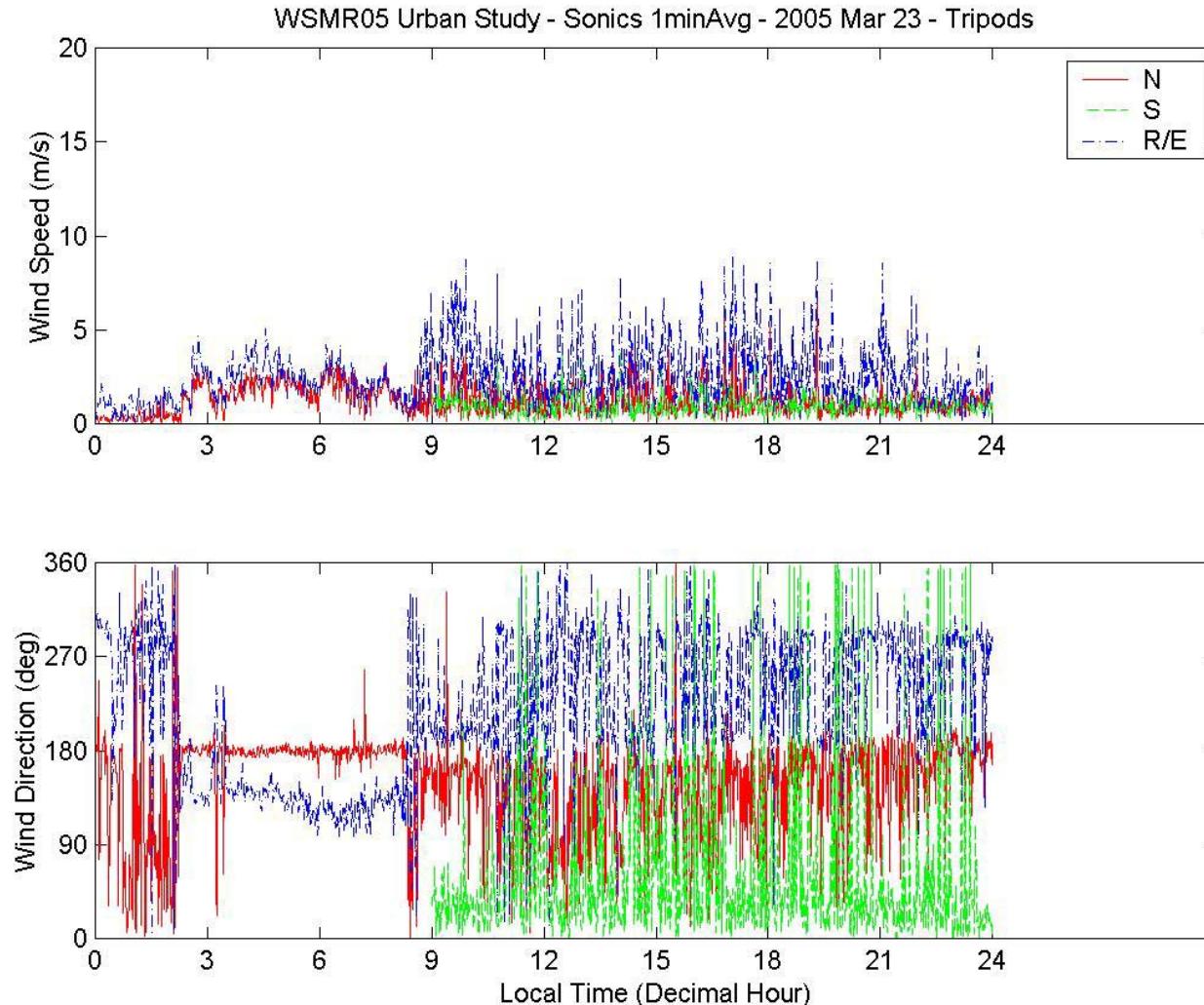
## 4. 2005 March: Phase II Preliminary Results.

### “THE CAVITY”



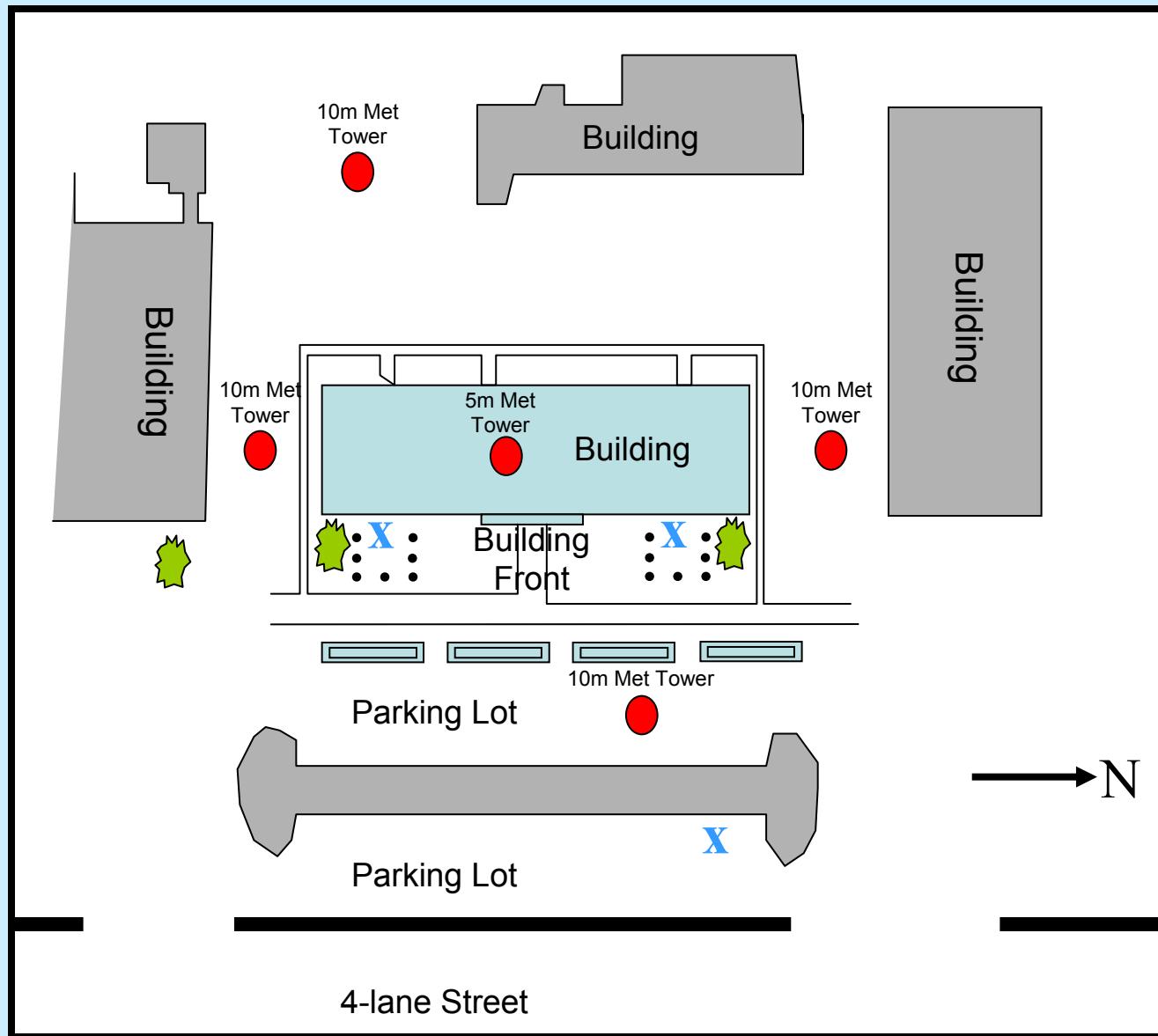
## 4. 2005 March: Phase II Preliminary Results.

### “THE RE-ATTACHMENT and LEESIDE EDDIES”



## Phase II: Field Site Layout

(Not drawn to scale)





## 4. 2005 March: Phase I Preliminary Results.

► Urban Simulations - usually use Neutral temperature profiles.

► Lessons learned:

### Cases

Day(Small bldg complex)

Night(Small bldg complex)

### Temperature profile

Use Neutral and Unstable.

Use Stable, Neutral and Unstable.

### Implied Lesson Learned:

Day(City-large bldg complexes)

Night(City-large bldg complexes)

Use Neutral and Unstable.

Use Neutral and Unstable.

► Military Application:

CBN toxic corridors – maximizes effects with traditional Neutral profiles.

**Optical propagation – minimizes effects with Neutral profiles.**

**– maximizes effects with Unstable profiles.**

**Need to include Unstable (and Stable) cases in Urban simulations.**



## 4. 2005 March: Phase II Preliminary Results.

### DYNAMIC Urban Atmospheric Effects

- ⇒ One Building does Disturb Airflow.
  - ⇒ Accelerated flow over building.
  - ⇒ Velocity Deficit Downwind.
  - ⇒ Flow Reversal in the Lee.
  - ⇒ Channeling Flow.
  - ⇒ Corner Vortices and Re-attachment Zone detected.
- ⇒ Vortex generation/degeneration – based on Wind Direction, Wind Speed Range and Stability factors.

Implication for modeling/simulations....

#### Diffusion about Buildings

Corner vortices lead to elevated concentrations on building leeside.  
Aid in placement of bio-detection sensors inside MOUT.



# Questions?

## Phase II



# ARL

